

To the members of the Environmental Committee:

I would like to add my support for HB6034 concerning Sunday Bow Hunting as I have done every year and will continue to do until SBH becomes a reality in the state of CT. Bow Hunting is a very low impact activity that contributes millions of dollars to state coffers every year and greatly assists keeping the deer population in check. Too many deer means destruction to state property, and private property; collisions with motor vehicles cause millions of dollars of damage as well as physical harm and fatalities in some cases. Less deer also means less deer ticks and less disease transmitted to humans.

Hunters feed their families with their deer harvests, and provide thousands of healthy meals to less fortunate CT residents via programs such as Hunters for the Hungry. The prohibition on private land bow hunting on Sunday is also a reprehensible assault on landowner rights. What business does the State of CT have outlawing an activity on private property on one day of the week when that activity is legal the other six days of the week? There are too many hunters including myself in Connecticut who work six days a week thereby unable to take full advantage of the rights and privileges of the licenses and permits we pay dearly for.

Bow Hunting is the safest form of hunting anywhere. Most bow hunting is done from treestands where the hunter is shooting at a sharp downward angle at short distances, usually less than 20 yards. There has never been a recorded arrow-related fatality in the past 100+ years these statistics have been kept in CT. Since precise targeting is necessary to take a deer and arrows are easily deflected bow hunters have to identify their target, focus on the vital area and make sure the path is clear.

Thank you for your consideration

Chris Barnhart